

Message

From: ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]
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To: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: U.S. EPA Helps Navigate Drinking Water Funding, States Move on Methane & PFAS

U.S. EPA Helps Navigate Drinking Water Funding, States Move on Methane & PFAS

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U.S. EPA Issues Drinking Water Guidance Memo and State Initiative Summary

This week, U.S. EPA Headquarters sent a [guidance memo](#) to Regions to help states and others navigate changes to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) under America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. AWIA increases the amount of subsidies available to disadvantaged communities, expands eligible uses of DWSRF set-asides, extends the American Iron and Steel provision for DWSRF-funded projects, and increases the maximum authorized loan term.

EPA also released an updated [document summarizing state initiatives to promote asset management](#) for drinking water systems.

Since the establishment of the DWSRF in 1997, states and EPA have worked to turn \$20 billion of taxpayer money into \$38 billion in assistance to infrastructure projects – especially in low-income communities where public health risk is often the highest. In 2018, the SRFs committed \$9.6 billion in drinking water and clean water infrastructure loans and refinancing and disbursed \$8.8 billion for drinking water and clean water infrastructure.

For more information, please contact Jack Bowles at (202) 564-3657. [Piper]

ECOS Bids Fond Farewell to Robin Stephens of SC upon Retirement

ECOS congratulates Robin Stephens on her well-deserved retirement today from the

South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control following more than 25 years of service to the agency. In her role as Assistant to the Director of Environmental Affairs, Robin co-led the ECOS-EPA Burden Reduction Workgroup and was active in a number of other ECOS groups including the Partnership & Performance Workgroup and Federal Facilities Forum. She has been a fixture at ECOS membership meetings, also hosting twice when ECOS met in Charleston in 1999 and 2006. In addition, she served as a key liaison to the association for two ECOS Presidents – Lewis Shaw and Bob King.

In evidence of her vast ECOS knowledge and experience, Robin was the runner-up in the inaugural ECOS trivia contest at last year's Fall Meeting. She will be missed by the ECOS members and staff.

If you would like Robin's contact information to wish her well, email [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS. [Parisien/Hanson]

ECOS to Welcome 200 Attendees, 44 Member Agencies at Spring Meeting

New Agenda Issued, Regular Registration Deadline is Today



ECOS today issued a new agenda for the wide-ranging April 7-10 Spring Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia on *Partnership in Action: Advancing Collaboration, Certainty, & Confidence*. The registration count currently stands at approximately 200 attendees, including leaders from 44 state environmental agencies. If you haven't yet registered, do so by COB today, **March 29**, to receive the regular rate.

See registration, hotel, and contact information [here](#). [Parisien]



State News You Can Use

[New Mexico Interactive Map Shows Methane Emissions
from Oil and Gas](#)

[Maine to Require PFAS Testing for Sludge Used in Land
Application](#)

[New Jersey PFAS Orders Companies to Testing and
Treatment of PFAS Waters](#)

[Florida DEP Partners with 4ocean on Coastal Cleanup](#)

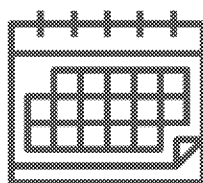
Pennsylvania Addresses Water System Infrastructure Needs with New Plan

U.S. EPA

Region 6 Administrator Idsal to Join U.S. EPA Air Office

On April 1, Anne Idsal, EPA's Region 6 Administrator, will move to agency Headquarters to serve as the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Air and Radiation. She had been tapped by former EPA Administrator Pruitt to lead Region 6 in December 2017.

Before joining EPA, Idsal worked in Washington, DC as an aide to Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) in his personal office and on the Senate Judiciary Committee, served as General Counsel for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and as Chief Clerk at the Texas General Land Office. [Poole]



Upcoming Events

ECOS

ECOS on U.S. EPA FY 20-21 National Program Guidance

ECOS has set dates for a series of calls for state officials, association staff, and U.S. EPA program offices on the agency's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 National Program Guidances (formerly known as National Program Manager Guidances). On the calls, senior U.S. EPA program staff will review the various goals and measures in the two-year strategic planning documents, explain major changes from the FY18-19 cycle, and give states an opportunity to ask questions.

On April 1, U.S. EPA will release the draft guidance documents on its [website](#), beginning a 30-day public comment period. The timing of ECOS' NPG calls is as follows:

- Office of Water: **April 16 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**
- Office of Air and Radiation: **April 24 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**
- Office of Land and Emergency Management: **April 24 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**
- Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance: **April 25 at 1:30-2:30 p.m. Eastern**

Please contact [Owen McAleer](#) of ECOS with any questions. [McAleer]

ECOS on Drinking Water Financing

On April 17 at 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern, ECOS will host a webinar to highlight three states' innovative uses of Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) to assist small water systems. The three featured programs help small and financially disadvantaged systems finance costly drinking water infrastructure projects and remain in compliance with state health regulations.

Presentations cover Alaska's Micro Loan Program, Connecticut's Emergency Power Generator and Small Loan Programs, and Oregon's Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects Program.

See [this flyer](#) for more information on the presentations. The webinar is the product of a research project to document state innovations in drinking water infrastructure financing.

ECOS is working under a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA's Office of Water.

Register [here](#) for the webinar, or contact [Megan Swanson](#) of ECOS for more information.
[Swanson]

Other

E-Enterprise Combined Air Emissions Reporting Team on CEDRI

The E-Enterprise Combined Air Emissions Reporting (CAER) Team will host a webinar on **April 1 at 3–4:30 p.m. Eastern** for states, EPA, and others to hear the latest updates to the Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI) and the Facility Widget. This work will be helpful in the broader effort to develop a process for reporting to four air databases including the National Emissions Inventory (NEI) via delegated state programs, and direct reports to federal databases including the Toxics Release Inventory, Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, and compliance reporting requirements for Part 60 and Part 63 regulations via CEDRI. The webinar will include information on the purpose of CEDRI, an overview of the Federal Registry System Risk and Technology Review project, and a demonstration of the facility widget used in submitting data to EPA.

Register [here](#). [Poole]

U.S. EPA and Army Corps on WOTUS

U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are hosting various opportunities for state input on the proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule as part of the public review process. EPA and the Army will host half-day discussions for state officials, which will allow for state input on the [proposed new definition](#) and implementation considerations. The last state meeting is **April 3 in Seattle, Washington**. Register for this meeting [here](#). [Piper]

ITRC on Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization

ITRC will hold a training course on Integrated DNAPL Site Characterization on **April 4 at 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern**.

Sites contaminated with dense nonaqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs) and DNAPL mixtures

present significant environmental challenges. After attending this training, participants will be able to: identify what site conditions must be considered when developing an informative DNAPL conceptual site model; define an objectives-based DNAPL characterization strategy; understand what tools and resources are available to improve the identification, collection, and evaluation of appropriate site characterization data; and navigate the DNAPL characterization tools table and select appropriate technologies to fill site-specific data gaps. [Olonoff]

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

U.S. EPA on Sustainable Water Resources

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) will host a webinar for states on its Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) and Research Area Teams on **April 4 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The webinar will provide a high-level overview of SSWR's draft StRAP and its related teams, including watersheds, nutrients and harmful algal blooms, water treatment and infrastructure, and PFAS. ORD has already held draft StRAP webinars for three other research programs (Air and Energy, Homeland Security, Chemical Safety for Sustainability, and Sustainable and Healthy Communities). For a copy of the draft StRAP, email [Sarah Grace Longworth](#) of ECOS.

To attend the webinar, see [here](#). The call-in number is 866-299-3188, with code 202-564-6669 for audio. Please share this information with your staff and other agencies in your state who deal with these topics. [Longworth]

U.S. EPA on ECHO behind the Scenes

U.S. EPA will hold a webinar on the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database on **April 9 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern**. During this webinar, EPA will go "behind the scenes" of ECHO, answering questions about environmental data such as:

- From which EPA program systems does ECHO retrieve data?
- How frequently are the data updated, and how do I make corrections?
- How can I download ECHO data?
- What are ECHO web services?

If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to suggest a question to answer during the webinar, please send feedback to [ECHO Support](#). Every six months U.S. EPA will highlight a different feature of ECHO, and each webinar will be recorded and shared on the [ECHO training page](#).

Register [here](#). [Piper]

U.S. EPA on Air Sensors

U.S. EPA will hold its monthly tools and resources webinar on **April 17 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The call will focus on advancing the development and evaluation of low-cost air quality sensors and air sensor technology.

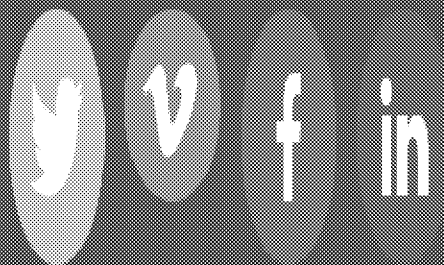
To register, see [here](#). For information on EPA's Air Sensor Toolbox, see [here](#). [Longworth]

DoD on Cleanups

The 2019 Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Forum will be held on **May 7-9 in St. Louis, Missouri**. The Forum is designed to facilitate information-sharing relative to the DoD cleanup program, with a focus on active and Base Realignment and Closure installations. The Forum will allow DoD and its regulatory partners at the senior cleanup manager level to discuss cleanup issues and initiatives, and to exchange views and lessons learned. These discussions will enhance communications and strengthen partnerships to enable DoD to conduct and complete cleanup effectively. The forum's plenary session will be led by Maureen Sullivan, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment. View the agenda [here](#).

Registration for state representatives is open on a first-come, first-served basis. State attendees can use DSMOA funds to cover their attendance. After coordinating internally and with your DoD DSMOA point of contact to determine who from the state will be requesting DSMOA funding, you can register [here](#) using the pre-registration code **S123**. State attendees not requesting DSMOA funding can register [here](#) using the pre-registration code **X123**.

Please contact [Molly Olonoff](#) for more information. [Olonoff]



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